



RESPONSE

EMS - ALASKA

Neighbor Helping Neighbor: An Alaskan Tradition

Volume 26, Number 1

Fall 2004

29th Annual EMS Symposium

This issue of RESPONSE: EMS ALASKA includes the schedule for the 2004 State EMS Symposium. This year's event will be held at the Egan Center, in Anchorage, on November 3 – 6. The hosting hotel is the Hilton Anchorage Hotel where the special conference rate is \$81 per night (single or double). The toll free reservation line for the Hilton Anchorage Hotel is 800-245-2527 (in-state), 800-445-8667 (world-wide). The direct number is (907) 265-7152. In addition, reservations can be made online at www.anchorage.hilton.com. Be sure to use the code "EMS."

As you can see from the schedule, this year's symposium should be both entertaining and educational. It is the 29th Annual EMS Symposium! There are many new and innovative speakers attending this year's event and several others, who have made their marks on Alaska EMS, are welcomed back.

Pre-Symposium Workshops

There are several high quality pre-symposium workshops from which to choose. These classes provide an opportunity to learn about a subject in more detail than is possible during the 90-minute presentations found on Friday and Saturday.

Wednesday and Thursday will feature two, two-day courses. The first is Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS) Provider course. This is a nationally-recognized course developed by BTLS International. The course will be limited to the first 25 participants.

The next two-day course is Pediatric Disaster Life Support. This is a course developed by the University of Massachusetts Medical School and is designed to train healthcare providers in the assessment and treatment of children during disasters. This class is also limited to the first 25 participants.

Wednesday there will be a one day course — START/JumpSTART train-the-trainer. This program will provide an overview of both triage systems and provide the tools for participants to teach the systems to their agency. On Thursday we will feature two, one day programs — Water Safety and Scene Safety and four half-day sessions: Prehospital Care of the Victim of Violence, Beyond the ABC; Obstetric Emergencies; Emergency Response to Persons with Brain Disorders; and Pediatric Airway Management. For more information refer to a full schedule beginning on page 7. For more pre-symposium information see page 4.

in this issue:

29th Annual Symposium
Pages 1-9

Symposium Special Events
Page 3

Nominations Sought for
EMS Governor's Awards
Page 6

The Making of Alaska's
Trauma System
Page 10

Staff changes at the State
EMS Office Page 11

Rural AED Grant
Program Update
Page 11

EMS Calendar:

Alaska Public Health
Training Institute
September 28 – 30

29th EMS Symposium
November 3 – 6

EMS Awards Banquet
November 6

Interior Region Symposium
March 30 – April 2, 2005

S.E. Region Symposium
April 6 – 9, 2005



An Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Publication

Frank H. Murkowski, Governor
Joel Gilbertson, Commissioner





29th Annual EMS Symposium

Opening Session

You don't want to miss this year's opening session. As in years past, we will announce the nominees and winners of many of the Governor's EMS awards. This will provide an opportunity for award winners and nominees to be recognized by their peers and colleagues during the Symposium.

Note: CME will be available for this session.

General Session

This year's General Session speaker is Dr. Arthur Cooper. Dr. Cooper is the Director of Trauma and Pediatric Surgical Services, Columbia University Affiliation, Harlem Hospital Center; Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery, Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons; and on the Board of Directors, Center for Pediatric Emergency Medicine. He is board certified in general surgery, pediatric surgery and surgical critical care.

Dr. Cooper has been active in the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program since 1985 and very involved with Trauma System development at the state and national level. He has served on various committees relating to trauma systems, pediatric trauma care and emergency medical services.

Increase your IP-Q (Injury Prevention Quotient): Attend the Injury Prevention Track

Injury remains the number one cause of death for Alaskans ages 1 through 44. While injuries are not accidents, they are tragedies, and they are preventable.

Did you know that in a recent survey of children and parents the vast majority of respondents stated they would be most apt to listen to police, fire fighters and/or EMTs talking about safety issues?

Because the public looks to EMS providers for injury prevention education and information we would like to use the EMS Symposium as a chance for you to increase your IP-Q.

The injury prevention track focus this year will be on fall prevention and traumatic brain injury prevention and, as we did last year, the track will include the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and all the Tribal Injury Prevention Programs.

On Friday afternoon fall prevention from facts to fitness will be presented. Did you know:

Falls are the #1 cause of non-fatal hospitalization injuries in all ages except 15-29 costing over \$15,700,000 per year.

Don't forget to sign up for the Safe Kids Luncheon on Friday, November 5th.

RESPONSE: EMS Alaska

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29th Annual EMS Symposium

The majority of falls requiring hospitalization result in fractures particularly to the lower extremities. 20 percent of seniors die within a year of a hip fracture. Saturday morning will focus on traumatic brain injuries and establishing a ThinkFirst program in Alaska. The mission of ThinkFirst is to prevent brain, spinal cord and other traumatic injuries through education of individuals, community leaders and the creators of public policy. The Chief Executive of the National Injury Prevention Foundation will be traveling to Alaska to assist us in developing a program. We also plan a fun event with media at noon on Saturday to raise awareness of traumatic brain injury and proven prevention methods.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for you to increase your IP-Q.

Clinical Track

This year's clinical track promises to be exciting and has something to offer everyone. The program will span three days, beginning on Thursday, November 4h. Please take a look at the list of lecturers and topics we have assembled. We think you will agree that it is an exciting program.

Thursday is a full day with presentations starting at 8:30 a.m. and going to 5 p.m. Please refer to the schedule beginning on page 7. In addition to the clinical track there are other options that participants may be interested in attending, such as the two-day Pediatric Disaster Life Support course on Wednesday and Thursday. Be sure to check the entire pre-symposium schedule for other exciting

programs. Continuing education credit will be available for all these presentations.

Friday is the official start of symposium with a clinical track presentation starting at 8:30 a.m. and other presentations throughout the day until 5:00 p.m. Saturday there will be presentations in the morning with the Medical Directors breaking at noon for a luncheon followed by a mini Quality Improvement Workshop for Medical Directors the remainder of the day. Other participants can return at 1:30 p.m. for one additional 90-minute session. See the entire schedule beginning on page 7.

Southern Region EMS Council, Inc., designates this educational activity for a maximum of 15 hours in category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity. Nursing CEUs have also been applied for.



It's not too early to begin planning for the 2005 Alaska EMS Symposium!

Topics and speakers will be largely determined by Symposium evaluations and letters. **Let us know your ideas!**

Check your symposium program, Southern Region EMS Council, Inc., and the Section of Community Health and EMS web sites for the dates.

EMS Symposium Special Events

- There will be the **Annual EMS Instructors Luncheon** sponsored by Alaska Regional Hospital on Friday, November 5th, from 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. It will be located at Alaska Regional Hospital, 2801 DeBarr Road. Sign up to attend on the symposium pre-registration form. Space is limited to the first 50.
- The **Annual All Alaska EMT Skills Competition** will be held on Saturday afternoon. Once again, the skills competition is being organized by EMT-Instructor Alan Loken and sponsored by the Alaska Medical Support Team. (See page 4 for details)
- The **27th Annual Governor's EMS Awards Banquet** will be held on Saturday evening at the Egan Center.

Annual Governor's EMS Awards will be presented to a Consumer/Citizen, Provider, Administrator/Researcher, Nurse (the Melissa Ann Peters Memorial Award), EMS Educator, a Physician (the Longenbaugh Memorial Award) and an Outstanding Ambulance Service award will be presented.

Because of subsidies generously provided by several vendors, the cost for the banquet is only \$27. The menu will be a Choice of Chicken Cremini with Northwoods rice pilaf or Halibut Newburg topped with lobster cream sauce and Alaskan Bay Shrimp; accompaniments, salad, dinner rolls and tuxedo truffle mousse cake. Please indicate any special dietary needs when pre-registering.



29th Annual EMS Symposium

Pre-Symposium Highlights

S.T.A.R.T./JumpSTART Train-the-Trainer

Most prehospital providers are familiar with the S.T.A.R.T. triage system but may not be familiar with the JumpSTART triage system for children. JumpSTART is the adaptation of the START system that accounts for the wide variations of normal physiology within the pediatric age group. Alaska has adopted both triage systems for use in our state.

Sue Hecks, EMT-III, has become our resident expert in teaching both triage systems, but Sue needs help in training agencies around the state. She will lead a pre-symposium workshop on Wednesday, November 3rd. The workshop will be an overview of both systems in addition to a train-the-trainer portion. Sue will provide the tools needed to do the training for your agency.

Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS)

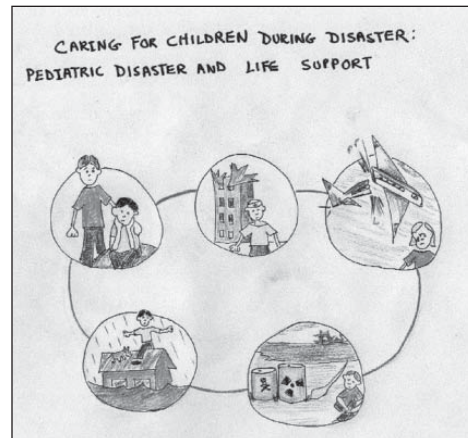
BTLS is a 16-hour hands-on training course offering basic EMS personnel complete training in the skills necessary for rapid assessment, resuscitation, stabilization and transportation of trauma patients. This provider course is designed for responders providing initial evaluation and stabilization of the trauma patient.



Pediatric Disaster Life Support (PDLS)

Children are often the unintended victims of disasters and responders feel less prepared to handle children. PDLS is a two-day course that includes interactive lectures with "hands on" simulation, case presentations, and skill teaching stations to increase the comfort level of responders dealing with children and disasters. The course was developed by the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

The target audience includes: EMS physicians, nurses, paramedics, EMTs and other members of disaster response teams. The course will be held 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM on Wednesday and Thursday, November 3 and 4. Register early since space is limited.



Boat Smart from the Start: Be Water Wise!

The Alaska Office of Boating Safety is proud to offer Alaska Water Wise, a boating course designed for Alaskans at this year's EMS Symposium. This eight-hour course is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard. The course satisfies most states boating safety education requirements and may even qualify boaters for boat insurance discounts.

Segments include pre-departure preparation, boating operations, boating emergencies, cold-water survival,

navigation/rules of the road, and legal requirements. Students who attend all sessions, and pass the written exam and skills will be issued a course completion certificate.

In addition if you complete this course and have taken a Methods of Instruction course (especially an EMS one), you are eligible for the Alaska Boating Safety Program's Instructor Registry.

So bring your swimsuit and join us in this exciting class.



29th Annual EMS Symposium

Hotel Reservations

The hosting hotel is the Anchorage Hilton Hotel where the conference rate is \$81 per night. The toll free reservation line for the hotel is 800-245-2527 (in-state), 800-445-8667 (worldwide). Please be sure to use the code "EMS" or Alaska Emergency Medical Services 2004 to receive this special symposium rate. Contact the Anchorage Hilton Hotel as soon as possible and before October 1, 2004. Information regarding the shuttle bus service to and from the conference site will be available at hotel check-in.

We remind you of the importance of staying at our host hotel, the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, which is offering us this great room rate. While we realize that some of you may want to stay at other locations for a variety of reasons, your support is very important to the Symposium overall. Staying at the official host hotel assists in many ways, including offering significantly reduced costs for our speaker rooms, providing the shuttle service to the Egan Center, and other benefits based on the number of hotel rooms used. This in turn, allows us to bring you the highest quality speakers and helps us to keep the Symposium registration fees as low as possible.

Parking

The Egan Center is located on 5th Avenue between E and F Streets and there are many convenient options for parking nearby. There are approximately 800 free parking spaces within a five-block radius of the Egan Center. Monday through Friday, between 9 AM and 6 PM, you may park for two hours on a block. On Saturday, Sunday, evenings, and municipal holidays, free parking is permitted at all metered spaces. Parking and garages nearby include:

JC Penney Garage (6th and E Street):
\$8.00 all day (50 cents/hour)
open: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

6th Avenue Parking Garage (enter on H Street):
\$5.00 all day (75 cents/hour)
Open 24 hours

5th Avenue Parking Garage (5th and B Street):
\$5.00 all day (50 cents/hour)
Open 24 hours

Post Office Mall and Lower Bowl Lots (3rd Ave., between E and C Street):

\$.50/hour – 2 hour metered lots

Dimond Parking Lots:

Weekdays by the hour

Saturday, \$2.00 all day

\$15.00/day for valet parking in garage

Airfare

Alaska Airlines is offering discounted airfare for travel to the Symposium. They will give 10% discount off any published excursion fares except for companion fares or other promotional offers. They will discount 10% from YAS or FAS booked in "Y" or "F" inventory. All fare rules and blackout dates apply. Request code CMR7162 when making your reservation.

EMS Symposium Continuing Education Credits

Continuing education credits for EMTs and Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics, nurses, physicians and physician assistants are being arranged for most of the programs.

Application for CME credit has been filed with the American Academy of Family Physicians. Determination of credit is pending.

Behavioral Objectives for all presentations will be available for viewing on Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.'s web site after September 15, 2004, at www.sremsc.org.

Upcoming Regional Symposia

Southeast Region EMS Symposium

April 6—9, 2005

(4/6 & 4/7 are pre-symposium classes)

Sitka, Alaska

Information:

Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.

(907)747-8005

<http://www.serems.org>

Interior Region 12th Annual EMS Symposium

March 30 & 31, April 1 & 2, 2005

(3/30 & 3/31 are pre-symposium classes)

Fairbanks, Alaska

Information:

Interior Region EMS Council, Inc.

(907)456-3978

<http://www.iremcs.org>



29th Annual EMS Symposium

Participate in the 27th Annual All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition

The King Career Center Emergency Services Technology Program and the Alaska Medical Support Team (AMST) are organizing the All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition. This annual event will be staged on Saturday, November 6th, in the Egan Center.

The organizers of the skills competition will distribute to all teams who pre-register a list of specific criteria by which the teams will be judged, as well as the criteria used for tie breaking. The criteria also will be sent to those organizations requesting them in writing.

Trophies and plaques for the top five teams will be presented at a ceremony during the awards banquet on Saturday, November 6th, at the Egan Center. In addition, prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Entry forms are contained in this issue, if you have any further questions, please contact Southern Region EMS Council at (907) 562-6449.

All-Alaska EMT Skills Competition Rules

- Three practical problems will be selected from the EMT-I skills levels.
- Only one team (two members) from each organization may enroll.
- Each team is required to bring its own trauma kit, equipped as the members see fit. Any specialized equipment required for the practical will be furnished by AMST. If it is not possible to bring a kit, please let AMST know in advance and one will be supplied. No books will be allowed.
- There is no entry fee.
- Each team must send completed entry blanks before October 29, 2004, so adequate plans may be made for space. Late entries may be accepted on a space available basis.
- Each team is composed of two competitors and one judge. That judge will proctor a team other than the one from his or her service area. The judge may come from an area outside the team's service area. The judge must be certified to at least the EMT-I level.

Nominations Sought for Annual EMS Awards

The 27th Annual Governor's EMS Awards Banquet will be held on November 6, 2004 at the Anchorage Egan Convention Center and will again provide us with an opportunity to honor individual Alaskans who have saved lives or reduced injuries of fellow Alaskans through heroic actions or meritorious service. Nominations can be made in the following categories:

EMS Citizen Award (person not in the regular line of duty who performs life-saving, limb-saving, or medical techniques in a medical emergency)

EMS Provider Award (medically trained person who performs meritorious service above and beyond expectations of the job)

EMS Administrator or Researcher Award (person who successfully develops a new approach, technique, device, etc. to improve EMS in Alaska and/or an outstanding administrator in an EMS agency or service)

EMS Educator Award (state-certified EMT or ETT Instructor who is dedicated to quality instruction and promoting the best in prehospital care or has made an outstanding contribution to EMS education)

George H. Longenbaugh, MD, Memorial Award (physician who exemplifies leadership and dedication to EMS systems and has significantly promoted the Alaska EMS system)

Melissa Ann Peters, RN, Memorial Award (outstanding nurse who has contributed in a special way to the encouragement of EMS skills, efforts, and education)

Outstanding Ambulance Service Award (for ambulance or first responder group that provides year-round service/gains community support in its service/educational activities)

Special Commendation (for air medical services, injury promotion/prevention, organizations and individuals that support EMS activities)

It's not too early to begin thinking about who you would like to honor in your EMS service this year. Nominations for the awards will be solicited beginning the first week in August and the deadline for submissions is Friday, September 10, 2004. Nominations should be mailed to:

Shelley K. Owens
Section of Community Health & EMS
P.O. Box 110616
Juneau, AK 99811-0616

Further information about the award criteria or procedures can be found at the website for the State EMS Office at http://chems.alaska.gov/ems_awards.htm or by contacting Shelley K. Owens at 465-3028 or by email at shelley_owens@health.state.ak.us.



29th Annual EMS Symposium

Symposium Schedule

PRE-SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOPS

2-Day Workshops

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3 & 4

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
(BLS Track)

Basic Trauma Life Support – Provider Course
Kathy Griffin, MICP
Anchorage, AK
Cost – \$200.00 (space is limited)

(Pediatrics)

Pediatric Disaster Life Support
Brian Carriere, RN course coordinator
Cost—\$ 200 (space is limited)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

8:00 AM—5:00 PM
(BLS/Instructor Track)

START/JumpSTART
Sue Hecks, EMT-III
Seldovia, AK
Cost—\$100

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

7:30 AM

REGISTRATION

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
(Injury Prevention)

Water Safety – Instructor Training
Joe McCullough
Anchorage, AK
Cost—\$100 (space is limited)

Half-Day Workshops

Cost – \$60 each for AM or PM sessions or
\$100 for AM and PM

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
(BLS/ALS Track)

Prehospital Care of the Victim of Violence, Beyond the ABCs.
Norm Rooker, EMT-P
Fairfield, CA

(BLS/ALS Track)

Obstetric Emergencies
Bill Kreisgman, MD
Seattle, WA

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

LUNCH

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM
(BLS/ALS)

Emergency Response to the Persons with Brain Disorders
Sgt. Mike Couturier, APD
Tracy Barbee
NAMI-Alaska
Anchorage, AK

(BLS/ALS Track)

Pediatric Airway Management
Arthur Cooper, MD
New York City

6:00 PM

Welcoming Reception
Anchorage Hilton Hotel

Clinical Track*

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Bioterrorism & Disease Surveillance
Linda Smith, MD
Anchorage, AK

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Difficult Pediatric Airways
Art Cooper, MD
New York City

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

LUNCH

1:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Shock Talk: An Approach to Hypotension and Hypovolemia
Leslie Wood, MD
Sitka, AK

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Clinical Errors in Emergency Medicine
Bill Kreisgman, MD
Seattle, WA

6:00 PM

Welcoming Reception
Anchorage Hilton Hotel

**All classes are held at the Egan Convention Center.
Please note times and special instructions.**

Don't Forget!!

The Welcoming Reception will start at 6 PM at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, Chart Room. Light snack food and no-host bar are available. The reception is sponsored by Southern, Southeast, and Interior Region EMS Councils, Inc.

**29th Annual EMS Symposium***Symposium Schedule***FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Opening Session
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	BREAK
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	General Session Trauma Systems Agenda of the Future Art Cooper, MD New York City
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	LUNCH Safe Kids' Luncheon Top of the World Hilton Anchorage EMS Instructors' Luncheon Sponsored by Alaska Regional Hospital
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM (BLS/ALS Track)	Preparing Trauma Patients for Transfer from Rural Areas Frank Sacco, MD Anchorage, AK
(BLS/ALS Track)	Orthopedic Topics: What they didn't teach you in EMT School Kathy McLeron, PA, MICP Juneau, AK
(BLS/ALS Track)	Shock Talk Leslie Wood, MD Sitka, AK
(Instructor Track)	Tips, Tricks, and Games for EMS Instructors Larry Masterman, NREMT-P Weaverville, CA
(Management Track)	Recruitment and Retention of Volunteers in EMS Norm Rooker, EMT-P Fairfield, CA
(Injury Prev. Track)	Don't Fall For It, Part I Karen Lawfer Juneau, AK
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	BREAK
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM (BLS/ALS Track)	When the Rescuer Becomes the Victim Brian Reiselbara, NREMT-P Kotzebue, AK
(BLS/ALS Track)	EMS for the Elderly Norm Rooker, NREMT-P

(BLS/ALS Track)

Fairfield, CA
EMS Myths
 Bill Kreisgman, MD
 Seattle, WA

(BLS/ALS Track)

Anatomy of a Lawsuit
 Lisa Hamby, Esq.
 Anchorage, AK

(Management Track)

Telemedicine and EMS
 J. Michael Orms, MD
 Texas

(Injury Prev. Track)

Don't Fall For It, Part II
 Karen Lawfer
 Juneau, AK

Clinical Track***8:30 AM - 10:00 AM**

TBA
 Mark Tuccillo, DO
 Petersburg, AK

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

BREAK

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**General Session
Trauma Systems Agenda of the Future**
 Art Cooper, MD
 New York City

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

LUNCH

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Telemedicine Successes
 J. Michael Orms, MD

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

BREAK

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Evaluation and Documentation of Non-Fatal Strangulation Cases
 Tara Henry, RN
 Anchorage, AK

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

(BLS/ALS Track)

Mass Casualty & Terror Response in Israel
 Larry Masterman, NREMT-P

(BLS/ALS Track)

A Day in the Knife and Gun Club
 Brian Reiselbara, NREMT-P

(BLS/ALS Track)

When ACLS Doesn't Work
 Rick Navitsky, MD
 Anchorage, AK

(BLS/ALS Track)

TBA
 Mark Tuccillo, DO
 Petersburg, AK



29th Annual EMS Symposium

Symposium Schedule

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6 (Cont.)

(Injury Prev. Track)	Think First – Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Part I Eric Kohler, MD Anchorage, AK
(Instructor Track)	Working with PowerPoint – Basics Kathy Griffin, MICP Anchorage, AK
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	BREAK
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM (BLS/ALS Track)	Field Triage and Realities in Medical Disasters Larry Masterman, NREMT-P
(BLS/ALS Track)	Wilderness Medicine—Field Cervical Spine Clearance Rob Janik, MICP Sitka, AK
(BLS/ALS Track)	In-Flight Emergencies on Commercial Carriers Valerie DeFrance, MICP Hope, AK
(BLS/ALS Track)	Predicting the Pediatric CRUMP BJ Coopes, MD Anchorage, AK
(Instructor Track)	Working with PowerPoint – Advanced Kathy Griffin, MICP Anchorage, AK
(Injury Prevention)	Think First – TBI, Part II Eric Kohler, MD Anchorage, AK
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	LUNCH

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
(BLS/ALS Track)

Bariatrics – Solutions for Big Problems
Brian Carriere, RN, NREMT-P
Anchorage, AK

(BLS/ALS Track)

1:30 PM

Skills Competition

7:15 PM

No Host Cocktails

8:00 PM

EMS Awards Banquet

Clinical Track*

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Pediatric Cerebral Resuscitation—Update
BJ Coopes, MD
Anchorage, AK

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

BREAK

10:30 AM - 12:00 AM

TBA
Michael Copass, MD
Seattle, WA

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

LUNCH

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Horses and Zebras
Shelly Deering, RN
Juneau, AK

Medical Directors Meeting

12:00 PM - 5 PM

Medical Director's Luncheon followed by the Quality Improvement Workshop.

7:15 PM

No Host Cocktails

8:00 PM

EMS Awards Banquet

* Application for CME credit has been filed with the American

Requirement to Notify the State EMS Office of Criminal Charges

This is to remind certified EMTs and EMS Instructors (ETT and EMT) in Alaska of the requirement to notify the state EMS office in writing within 30 days after being charged with an offence that is a class A misdemeanor or a felony under the laws of this state or an offence with substantially similar elements in another jurisdiction.

Failure to notify our office in writing within this timeframe is grounds for suspension or revocation of an EMS certification. The department can also deny certification or recertification to individuals who fail to give the required notification. This requirement went into effect on June 23, 2001.



The Making of Alaska's Trauma System

The development of Alaska's trauma system continues. This year there are several new and exciting initiatives supported in part by a small grant from the federal Trauma/EMS System Program. These activities include Advanced Trauma Life Support training; trauma center designation; and the work of the the Alaska Trauma System Review Committee in guiding the system's development and evaluating its effectiveness.

Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness funds are also available this year and will be used to tackle additional trauma system issues related not just to bioterrorism but other forms of attack as well. Injuries due to explosives have become a preeminent issue in terrorism today. Six major burn patients would overwhelm any hospital in Alaska. Our first activity under this grant will be to assemble a group to develop a burn care plan in the event of a large number of burn patients and limited ability to transport to a burn center. The plan will focus on Anchorage initially and include a burn care course for treatment and care of burn patients in the first 24 hours.

Another activity is to pilot the new American College of Surgeons (ACS) course called TEAM. The course is designed to train a trauma team and is taught right in the facility. The participants learn in their own environment and with their own equipment. This course is ideal for the smaller clinics with or without a physician.

And lastly, pediatric surgeon Dr. Arthur Cooper will be our keynote speaker at the annual EMS Symposium. Dr. Cooper is very involved with trauma-EMS system development at the state and national level and will be present on Trauma/EMS system development across the nation.

Alaska currently has one Level II trauma center – Alaska Native Medical Center – and two Level IV trauma centers – Norton Sound Health Corporation and Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation. Other hospitals that have expressed interest are Kakanak Hospital in Dillingham and Ketchikan General Hospital (KGH). KGH is pursuing a Level III designation and is having a trauma center consultative visit from the ACS in September of this year.

Unintentional injuries remains the number one cause of death for Alaskans age 1 to 44 and the third leading cause of death for Alaskans overall. The Alaska Trauma/EMS System program is attempting to ensure that healthcare providers are ready for the trauma patient and a system exists to provide the best possible care in an expeditious manner.

Take Heart Alaska tackles women's heart attack issues

The newly released National Institutes of Health's study on Women's Symptoms Prior to Heart Attack shows that women and heart disease are in the news these days. The data is making the medical and scientific community question the assumption that women and men are the same when it comes to having a heart attack.

Women are more likely to die within one year of a first-recognized heart attack (38% women compared to 25% men: American Heart Association). In Alaska, the death rate from heart attack has decreased for men, but has stayed roughly the same for women. At this rate, by 2006, women will have a higher death rate than men in Alaska.

Women are less likely than men to receive treatment recognized as "best practice" to prevent future cardiovascular events such as aspirin therapy, beta blockers, and ACE inhibitors.

Women are more likely than men to have atypical symptoms. The recent NIH Study showed fewer than 30% reported chest pain or discomfort before they had a heart attack and 43% didn't experience chest pain while they were having the heart attack. They are more likely to have symptoms such as:

- unusual or unexplained fatigue or weakness.
- shortness of breath.
- clammy sweats, heart flutters.
- stomach or abdominal pain, indigestion.
- dizziness or nausea.
- Women are more hesitant than men to take action when having symptoms:
- They don't want to inconvenience anyone.
- They are afraid of being embarrassed if it is a false alarm.
- They think about the logistics of arranging for the family if they end up in the hospital.
- Their symptoms are strange, not what they thought having a heart attack would feel like.
- They don't think heart attacks happen to women, especially younger women, even though 6 times more women will each year from heart attack than from breast cancer.

The Take Heart Alaska coalition is rolling out an educational campaign called "**Alaska Women Take Heart**" in February 2004. The campaign is encouraging women to know the signs and symptoms of heart attack for themselves, and to take action. The recommended actions are:

- Call 911 or the emergency number in your area for an ambulance. If you live in a rural area that is far from the clinic, have someone drive you to meet the ambulance



en route. Tell the staff you are having heart attack symptoms.

- Chew and swallow with water one regular full-strength aspirin as soon as possible to prevent blood clotting.
- Be sure the hospital staff takes your complaints seriously, does not make you wait, and gives you a thorough cardiac evaluation including an electrocardiogram, and a blood test to check your cardiac enzymes.

The campaign will include radio ads, and community events that increase awareness. There are community coordinator kits available for anyone interested in participating in the campaign. The kits include bookmarks, posters, signs and symptoms

Rural AED Grant Program

The Department of Health and Social Services received \$265,168 from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in September 2003. The grant funds were for the purchase, distribution, and training costs associated with automated external defibrillators (AED). The Department convened an evaluation committee to review statewide applications for AEDs and accessories. Through a competitive bid process, the Department was able to purchase and distribute 156 AEDs, 76 trainers, and 82 wall-mount cabinets based on the recommendations of the committee. In addition, seven contracts were awarded to provide training, technical, and administrative support to agencies receiving the devices. A complete list of recipients can be found on CHEMS web site at: <http://www.chems.alaska.gov/EMS/AED.htm>.

The Next Generation at the State EMS Office

The State EMS office is in a period of flux as we adjust to the departure of three of our staff members. As you all probably know, Matt Anderson resigned as the State EMS Unit Manager on July 9, 2004 to pursue a life long dream of higher education. Matt will start classes at the University of Alaska Southeast this fall to pursue a degree in Information Technology.

Mark Johnson, the Section Chief of Community Health and EMS retired August 1, 2004 after 25 years at the State EMS Office. He plans to stay involved in EMS and injury prevention policy issues at the state and national level but will enjoy having more time to pursue other interests, such as traveling and spending time with his grandson.

Kathy McLeron, the EMS Training Coordinator has accepted the challenge of becoming the new EMS Unit Manager. Kathy has worked for the state as the training coordinator since August 2001 and comes to this position with over 20 years of experience in EMS. We wish her the best and give her our support and confidence.

Deborah Jilly, Injury Prevention Unit Manager, will serve as Acting Chief of the Section until further notice from the Director's office.

Administrative clerk, Kim Ridle recently moved to a new position leaving a vacancy in office administration. This position has been posted and will be filled soon.

Most of the faces remain the same at the state office, but there will be a little shifting of duties for the near future.

Martha Moore continues as the Trauma Registry Coordinator and is active in the development of Alaska's trauma system.

Doreen Risley, the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Coordinator, is also working with Martha on the development of Alaska's trauma system, and overseeing the Rural AED Grant program. She also works with the Code Blue Steering Committee, and continues to coordinate activities at the State EMS Symposium.

Shelley Owens continues to oversee certification of ground and air ambulance services, the EMS data collection project, Alaska's Comfort One and Hepatitis B programs, and is managing the EMS piece of the Rural Hospital Flexibility Program.

Melanie White remains the point of contact for certification and recertification of individuals, including EMTs, EMS Instructors, and Emergency Medical Dispatchers.

Zoann Murphy is the Poison Control Educator for the Alaska Poison Control System. In addition she works on several other projects including, the EMS Injury and works with Martha Moore on data research projects. There will also be some new faces and voices in the office. Besides a new administrative clerk, we also need to hire a new EMS Training Coordinator to replace Kathy. So please be patient if your questions and requests are not promptly handled. We all remain dedicated to providing good service and will work together to fill the gaps.

29th Annual EMS Symposium: Nov. 3-6

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